

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 26, 2006
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Trooper Arrests Two for Burglary in Spokane Valley

On May 26, 2006, at around 12:30 am, a WSP trooper was on patrol in the area of 32nd and Chapman Rd, in the Spokane Valley when he observed a suspicious vehicle that was unoccupied and parked near a new construction development.

The trooper began to shine his spotlight into the homes that were under construction on Meadow Lane and Chapman Road. The trooper thought he saw movement in one of the homes as he passed by. He then observed the earlier unoccupied vehicle's lights come on as the vehicle began to leave quickly. The trooper turned around to catch up to the vehicle that was already well down the roadway. The vehicle slid through the intersection of 32nd and Chapman off the roadway as the trooper approached. The vehicle then headed west on 32nd and pulled in behind a residence at 16410 E 32nd.

The trooper then took both subjects into custody at gunpoint as they were trying to exit the vehicle. A large amount of copper wire and pipe was found in the back seat of the suspect's vehicle. The suspects later confessed to stealing the items from the construction site.

After checking the license plate of the vehicle that the suspects were driving it was found that an off duty Liberty Lake PD officer had observed the vehicle in the same area just a few days earlier. The LLPD officer indicated that people appeared to be loading construction supplies into the vehicle.

Troopers booked 20 year old, Jason E. Cooper into the Spokane County Jail on charges of burglary, theft and malicious mischief. The other suspect was a minor and was booked into juvenile detention on the same charges.

The WSP would like to remind contractors and people who are building new homes or businesses to be on the look out for thieves. These types of incidents are happening more frequently and people should lock up equipment and materials of value. If you observe suspicious vehicle in areas where new construction is occurring please call 911 to alert local law enforcement.

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